

which we can study and learn about our rich heritage.

FRIENDSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SOUL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, November 17, 1996 marked the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. The fraternity was founded by three undergraduate students and their faculty advisor at Howard University. These gentlemen—Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper, Frank Coleman, and Dr. Ernest Everett Just—began an organization that would play a major role in the cultural, social, and civic lives of communities of color.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is one of eight members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council. The fraternity's motto is "Friendship Is Essential To The Soul" and its cardinal principles are manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. The first chapter, the Alpha Chapter, was organized by 14 charter members on December 15, 1911. Today, Omega Psi Phi is composed of 11 districts and has more than 500 active chapters around the world.

The Upsilon Phi Chapter represents the greater Newark, New Jersey area. It was founded on October 27, 1927 to promote the fraternity's cardinal principles in the community. The 63-member organization has continued the tradition of providing service and support to our community and its people.

The brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity were very active in America's struggle for social change. Thousands of Omega men from every part of the country were involved in the fight to eliminate racial discrimination. The Omegas financially supported other organizations, including the NAACP and Urban League, that were fighting on the same battle field for social justice.

It is said to forget one's history is to be doomed to repeat one's mistakes. In 1921 at its Nashville Grand Conclave, the Omegas adopted Carter G. Woodson's concept of a National Achievement Week to promote the study of Negro life and history. Today, Mr. Woodson's concept is observed in the month of February as Black History Month. The Achievement Week is still observed during the month of November where tribute is paid to members of the community who have served it in an exemplary manner.

On November 9, 1996, the Upsilon Phi Chapter held its 1996 Achievement Week Awards Breakfast on the campus of the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, New Jersey. The event was a gathering of family, friends, brothers and associates who came together to recognize and thank those who have made a difference. Student Awards were presented to Willie D. Graves and Michael Brown, students of Orange High School and St. Benedict's Prep School, respectively; Irving A. Childress received the Community Service Award; the Citizen of the Year Award went to Milton L. Harrison; the Superior Service Award was accepted by Brother James G. Hunter; the Basileus Award was presented to Brother

Felix H. Bryant, Jr. and Brother William H.L. Oliver became Omega Man of the Year.

In their acceptance speeches each gentleman thanked his family for the role each has played in his life. The words role model kept coming up. Felix Bryant thanked his mother who received an Achievement Award in 1995; presenter Louis Childress thanked his awardee brother, Irving, who although younger had been a role model for him; William Oliver recognized his two daughters, Shelly and Krystal and his granddaughter, Kourtney. The theme of being of service to one's community also took a prominent place in everyone's remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to be the recipient of the 1994 Citizen of the Year Award from the Upsilon Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. It was very gratifying to be recognized for my work by a group of distinguished professional gentlemen who in their own rights make differences in the lives of many people every day. Greatness, commitment and service have permeated the legacy of the Omegas through the memberships of many famous African-American men including marine biologist Ernest E. Just who was recognized recently with the issuance of a commemorative U.S. postal stamp, discoverer of plasma Charles Drew, poet Langston Hughes, developer and initiator of the current Black History Month Carter G. Woodson, attorney and former head of the National Urban League Vernon Jordan, astronaut Ronald McNair, America's first African-American Governor L. Douglas Wilder, and author of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon Johnson. This list of luminaries would not be complete if it did not include two gentlemen who were instrumental in establishing a sound and functional foundation for the fraternity. They are H. Carl Moultrie who served as the fraternity's first national executive secretary (executive director) and Walter H. Mazyck who was the fraternity's preserver of records (historian).

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to enter into the annals of U.S. history, the names of the members of the Upsilon Phi Chapter; hereby thanking them for being such good role models and supporters of our community. The 1996 membership roster includes Lee A. Bernard, Jr., Basileus; William H.L. Oliver, 1st Vice Basileus; Patrick D. Todd, 2nd Vice Basileus; Ronald D. Coleman, Keeper of Records and Seal; Felix H. Bryant, Jr., Keeper of Finance; Derrick Hurt, Keeper of Peace; Rev. John G. Ragin, Chaplain; and members Dwayne R. Adams, Donald D. Baker, James R. Barker, Jr., Stephen Barnes, Richard A. Bartell, Jr., James E. Bennett, Victor Cahoon, Louis Childress, Jr., Steve Cooper, Michael A. Davidson, Adrian C. Desroe, Edward Von Dray-Smith, Daniel Eatman, Leon Ewing, Jeffrey C. Gaines, Alfred C. Gaymon, Tyrone Garrett, Hugh M. Grant, Richard Greene, Bruce D. Harman, Keith Harvest, Pearly H. Hayes, Thomas V. Henderson, Bruce A. Hinton, James G. Hunter, George W. James, IV, Sharpe James, Michael W. Johnson, Kenneth J. Jones, Ronald M. Jordan, Jr., Calvin R. Ledford, Jr., Melvin D. Lewis, Jr., Gilbert D. Lucas, Samuel M. Manigault, Samuel T. McGhee, Maxie A. McRimmon, Clifford J. Minor, Ronald J. Morse, Jr., Roy Oller, Sedgewick Parker, Alfred Parchment, S. George Reed, Autrey Reynolds, Arthur J. Smith, III, Zinnerford Smith, Rhudell A. Snelling, Jessie L. Stubbs, Jr., Kenneth

Terrell, Lloyd Terrell, Antionne Thompson, Charles W. Watts, H. Benjamin Williams, Robert Wilson, Jr., James C. Wilkerson, Rashad Wilkerson, and Ennis D. Winston.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me as I offer congratulations to the award recipients and extend best wishes for a prosperous, healthy and happy 1997 to the members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, particularly the membership of the Upsilon Phi Chapter of Newark, New Jersey.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRUTH IN BUDGETING ACT

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, along with the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative OBERSTAR, the Truth in Budgeting Act, which takes off-budget four user-financed, deficit proof transportation trust funds.

In the 104th Congress, the House, on April 17, 1996, voted by nearly a two to one margin (284-143) in favor of the same bill that we are introducing today. The support for that legislation was overwhelmingly bipartisan.

The reason for this support is simple. The issue before the House was not a budget question but rather a matter of honesty with the taxpayer. Members concluded that they no longer wanted to continue the charade of collecting dedicated gas, airline, waterway, and harbor taxes and using the funds—not to fund infrastructure improvements—but rather to mask the size of the general fund deficit.

The Truth in Budgeting Act is very simple. It removes four trust funds (Highway, Aviation, Inland Waterways, and Harbor Maintenance) from the Congressional Budget. The trust funds still remain subject to all current authorizing and appropriations controls. Indeed, the legislation includes provisions guaranteeing that the funds can never deficit spend.

All spending from these trust funds would still require authorization and appropriate spending controls could still be set by the Appropriations Committee. Further, spending from the funds are still subject to line item veto and would be included in calculations under balanced budget constitutional amendments.

America's infrastructure needs are staggering. For highways, we should be spending \$60 billion per year but are only spending \$30 billion. Similar levels of neglect exist in our bridge and transit programs. Our air traffic control system is still literally running on vacuum tubes.

There are numerous costs to this under investing: increased commuting times and delay, additional cost from wear and tear, decreased industrial productivity and international competitiveness, and increased transportation costs for businesses.

Perhaps the greatest cost is in diminished safety. Fatal accidents on four-lane divided highways may be one half that of two-lane roads. Improvements from the National Highway System (NHS) may save 1,400 to 3,600 lives yearly as well as savings in human suffering and economic loss. Aviation safety is the top priority of the air traffic control system.